



Brownfields 2005 Grant Fact Sheet

Allegheny County Redevelopment Authority, PA

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic development to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

The Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County was selected to receive two brownfields assessment grants and a cleanup grant. Allegheny County (population 1,281,700) lies in western Pennsylvania and includes a federally designated Enterprise Zone. The corridors along the Allegheny and Ohio Rivers, the target areas, have a shared industrial history. For decades, the banks along both sides of the rivers were lined with steel manufacturing facilities and other heavy industries that relied on the rivers and adjacent rail lines for the transportation of raw materials and finished products. The demise of these industries left

Assessment Grants



\$200,000 for hazardous substances
\$200,000 for petroleum

EPA has selected the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County for two brownfields assessment grants. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to conduct up to five Phase I and II site assessments at former industrial riverfront properties along the county's Allegheny and Ohio River corridors. Funds also will be used to conduct community outreach activities. Petroleum funds will be used to conduct six to eight Phase I and II site assessments in the same target areas.

Cleanup Grant



\$200,000 for hazardous substances

EPA has selected the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County for a brownfields cleanup grant. Grant funds will be used to conduct community outreach and cleanup activities at the 13-acre Firth Sterling property in the City of McKeesport. Contamination at the site is the result of the historic use of the property for steel manufacturing and later as an equipment storage yard for a highway construction business.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: www.epa.gov/brownfields.

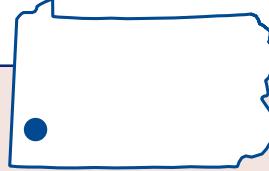
EPA Region 3 Brownfields Team

215-814-3129

<http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/bfs/index.htm>

Grant Recipient: Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County, PA
412-350-1080

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.



the county with many abandoned and underutilized properties. Many of these riverfront communities have unemployment rates of around 15 percent. In the heavily impacted communities, more than 45 percent of residents are minorities. Assessment of the brownfields properties will address the concerns that discourage investment in the region. Redevelopment of these properties could leverage the creation of much-needed jobs. The cleanup site, the Firth Sterling property, is in a federally designated Enterprise Zone, where 23 percent of residents live below the poverty line, and the unemployment rate is 17 percent. Redevelopment of the property is expected to support 500 industrial jobs, generate over \$17 million in investment for the city, mitigate the potential risks to human health and the environment, and address environmental justice issues.